

I.

Lead counsel for each party (or a designee attorney with appropriate authority) shall personally meet at a mutually agreeable location at least 14 days before the date specified in Section VI of this order.¹ Counsel shall determine in good faith whether this case can be settled before additional expenses are incurred.

II.

If the case does not settle, counsel shall submit a Joint Proposal **in the format provided** that contains the following items. **The format for the Joint Proposal can be found at the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas website under Judges > Judge Brantley Starr > Standard Forms.**² **The parties shall submit the Joint Proposal in the format provided.**

1. Proposed time limits to file various types of motions;
2. A proposed plan and schedule for discovery, including a time limit to complete discovery;
3. A proposal for limitations, if any, to be placed upon discovery;
4. A proposed time limit to designate expert witnesses;
5. A proposed trial date, estimated number of days required for trial, and whether a jury has been demanded;
6. A proposed date for commencing settlement negotiations;
7. Whether the parties will consent to trial (jury or non-jury) before a United States Magistrate Judge;³

¹ FED. R. CIV. PROC. 26(f)(1)–(2).

² <http://www.txnd.uscourts.gov/judge/judge-brantley-starr>

³ Before responding to this question, counsels are directed to carefully review the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and, specifically, section 636(c)(3).

8. Whether the parties are considering mediation or arbitration to resolve this litigation, and if not then why not;⁴
9. Any other proposals regarding scheduling and discovery that the parties believe will facilitate expeditious and orderly preparation for trial, including the parties' positions on a consolidated discovery schedule; and
10. Any other matters relevant to the status and disposition of this case.

III.

Lead counsel for plaintiff is responsible for initiating contact with opposing counsel for the purpose of preparing the Proposal. But lead counsel for all parties are equally responsible for seeing that this order is complied with in a timely manner. At least one counsel for each party shall sign the Proposal prior to filing.

IV.

If counsel cannot agree on a recommendation, the Proposal shall set forth each party's respective recommendation and shall state why agreement could not be reached.

V.


Unless the Court sets or a party requests a scheduling conference, the Scheduling and Discovery Order will be issued following the Court's review of the Proposal. Once the Scheduling Order has been issued, the Court will review with disfavor requests for extensions of the Scheduling Order's deadlines and will deny them absent a showing of good cause.

⁴ The Court encourages the early use of mediation or arbitration.

VI.

The Proposal shall be filed on or before April 19, 2024.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 19th day of March, 2024.



BRANTLEY STARR
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE